

GATES@UGA PhD call, 2025

Closing date for submission of proposals: **January 13th, 2025**

The present call is open to proposals aiming to fund a doctoral thesis involving a collaboration between an international research facility (grand instrument) present in Grenoble. The aim of the call is to strengthen links between the UGA and international research facilities located in Grenoble. This call for proposals is intended for the entire scientific and academic community (researchers, professors-researchers and equivalent positions), with no restrictions in terms of discipline or methodology.

PhD theses will be co-supervised by one faculty member from a UGA research department and one from an international research facility, each with the same proportion of commitment (50-50). Faculty from a research facility is understood to be any faculty member employed by the facility. The recruitment of doctoral students, thesis supervision, and generally all procedures necessary for the smooth running of the collaboration, will be carried out according to the rules and conditions defined in existing agreements between the UGA and the partners. The doctoral research fellowship is co-funded by the UGA and the international research facility (50-50).

The international research facilities targeted in this call for proposals are:

- European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, ESRF,
- Institut Laue Langevin, ILL,
- European Molecular Biology Laboratory, EMBL,
- European Magnetic Field Laboratory, EMFL,
- Institut de Radio-Astronomie Millimétrique, IRAM.

Proposals involving in addition an international partner are encouraged. Regarding the EMBL, proposals will aim to strengthen UGA-EMBL collaborations in the fields of epigenetics, infectiology and the search for new drugs.

▪ **Assessment criteria**

Quality of proposal: originality beyond the national and international state of the art, scientific and/or technological ambition of the goals, relevance of the collaboration to the research facility.

Feasibility: adequate human and methodological resources for the project goals, risk analysis and management, complementarity of the consortium. Tie-in between the doctoral research project and the overall project.

Impact: importance of the expected outcomes for the state of the art, dissemination strategy, contribution to the growth of scientific knowledge and technological innovation within UGA, enhanced potential for submitting national or European projects.

▪ **Complementary criteria**

- In the event that a given proposal is submitted for a second time, the assessments from the previous year will be taken into consideration in addition to those from the current year, and also the description of any changes made to the proposal submitted.
- In the context of the UGA's environmental policy, each principal investigator will explain how the potential environmental impacts of their project will be limited.
- The dissemination and exploitation of results strategies will be taken into consideration, especially as regards

the choice of national or international conferences, national or international journals including peer review, and referencing in the target international databases. Moreover, it will be mandatory to file the articles and manuscripts written in an open database (such as HAL or arxiv).

▪ **Project coordination**

- The UGA principal investigator must be an active permanent faculty member (researcher, professor-researcher) in a UGA research unit. An emeritus researcher or lecturer/researcher is not entitled to act as a principal investigator.
- The principal investigator must not be a member of a research department board (*membre du directoire d'un pôle de recherche*), of the Vice-Presidency for Research and Innovation, or of the UGA Council of Deans.
- The approval of the principal investigator's laboratory management board must be obtained. All proposals are eligible, with no quotas per laboratory.

▪ **Regarding the doctoral supervision**

- The thesis supervisors must be affiliated with a UGA Doctoral School.
- Doctoral students must be recruited in conjunction with the Doctoral School concerned. The recruitment procedure (drafting and publication of the job description, definition of the working conditions, pre-selection and then interviews) will be defined by the future supervisors and then validated by the Doctoral School. People with experience in thesis supervision and the international recruitment of doctoral students must be involved in each phase of the process. It is hence not necessary to identify a candidate when submitting the proposal.
- The prospective Doctoral School will be questioned regarding the number of theses in progress and the number of theses funded but not defended after 4 years and supervised by the proposed thesis supervisor(s). This list will cover the past 10 years or, failing this, date from when they were hired. In addition, the opinion of the Doctoral School will be sought regarding the quality of the doctoral supervision and whether the subject of the thesis is consistent with the Doctoral School's fields of research.
- Each potential thesis supervisor must confirm with the Doctoral School with which they are affiliated that the applicable rules relating to student/teacher ratio are complied with in the context of roll-out of the new Doctoral School regulations and the transitional phase thereof.

▪ **Selection procedure**

- The scientific projects will be assessed by the research departments and the relevant international research facility. These assessments will be sent to a specific *ad hoc* committee, composed of equal numbers of representatives from the UGA and the partner. Each committee will draw up a proposed selection of projects. The composition of these different committees will be announced before March 15th, 2025.
- The proposal of each committee will be submitted for decision to the UGA council of Deans (Directoire) and the relevant international research facility direction.
- The selection procedure will comply with the UGA code of ethics for calls for proposals, including in particular the treatment of potential conflicts of interest. A link of interest declaration will be required from committee members. All members of committees and bodies are required to respect all rules regarding confidentiality and the code of ethics.
- Each committee will appoint a rapporteur for each proposal from among its members, who will write a summary of the assessments to be sent to the principal investigator. Each principal investigator will be entitled to request a meeting with a member of the research department board to discuss his or her application.

▪ **Submission of proposals**

Applications must be submitted to dgdriv-aap-recherche@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr in electronic form, in the required format and complete, within the deadline and according to the procedure specified. They will be written in English.

The results will be published by mid-April 2025.

The following documents must be enclosed with the application:

- CV of principal investigators (1 single document – 2 pages maximum per investigator),
- Proposal document (respect the stipulated number of pages for every item),
- Confirmation of proposal submission signed by the Director of the UGA principal laboratory.

Contact addresses of the UGA research departments:

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